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Free Zone Rules Have Been Amplified

The government has recently approved a management note dealing with the adaptations for businesses in the Aruba Free Zone and for those interested in establishing in the Free Zone area.

Businesses offering services are no longer obliged to be established in the existing Free Zone. Businesses may sell 25% rather than 5% of their total products on the local market, according to a recently published Aruba Free Zone (FZA) communique.

FZA and the Tax Office have agreed that, under cer-



Minister of Finance Mike de Meza

tain conditions, businesses offering services established in the Free Zone may now establish their business outside of the Free Zone if they choose to do so. They have also clarified the definition of permissible activities for businesses offering services. This clarification puts the law in equality with other countries and their definitions and possibilities, according to FZA.

Furthermore, it has been noted that all offices in the Free Zone are occupied.

New businesses offering services will no longer be allowed to establish in the Free Zone without a change of management simply because of the scarcity of locales.

Investing in new offices is not economically profitable in view of the plans to move the Free Zone to Barcadera.

One other change is the amplification of the percent-

age of sales on the local market. Free Zone businesses holding special permits, may, as of this year, sell one quarter of their total products on the local market. They will, however, be required to pay duties in accordance with the normal duty quotas. This change annuls the limitation imposed on Free Zone business for the past 10 years.

FZA is convinced that a change in the actual legislation of the Aruba Free Zone activities is necessary to make our Free Zone more attractive. According to them, the Free Zone is an instrument to be used to attract investors for the diversification of our local economy. One characteristic of this type of investment is that it is not linked to our tourism sector. Because of our geographic location, transportation connections, attractive fiscal tariffs, security and political stability, FZA is convinced that Aruba is an attractive place for investors.

Observers also believe that the Aruba Free Zone can position Aruba as a hub for businesses from Holland and the European Union who want to access the Latin-American market and vice versa. Aruba, by all means must take good advantage of her position and make certain that the Free Zone play an important role in the process.

Dutch prince may never regain consciousness: doctors

INNSBRUCK (AFP) - Dutch Prince Johan Friso, the second son of Queen Beatrix, suffered massive brain damage in an avalanche in Austria and might never regain consciousness, his doctors said Friday.

"It can't be said with certainty at this point whether Prince Friso will ever regain consciousness again," Wolfgang Koller, head of the trauma unit at Innsbruck University Hospital, told a press conference.

"In any case, a neurological rehabilitation will be required that will take months,



Prince Johan Friso if not years."

The 43-year-old father of two young daughters was caught in an avalanche while skiing off-piste with a friend in the posh Austrian ski resort of Lech a week ago.

He was quickly evacuated by helicopter to Innsbruck University Hospital but nevertheless spent some 25 minutes under the snow, according to the doctors.

"Due to the amount of time spent under the snow, his brain was not supplied with sufficient oxygen," Koller said.

"This resulted in a heart attack that lasted about 50 minutes. During this whole time, the patient had to be resuscitated," he said. "Fifty minutes of reanimation is very, very long, one might even say too long."

"Our hope was that the patient's mild hypothermia would provide some protection for the brain. This hope was not realised."

Doctors were able to do an MRI scan on the prince for the first time on Thursday and "it's clear that the lack of oxygen caused massive damage in the patient's brain," Koller said.

"The family of Prince Friso will now look for an appropriate facility for the rehabilitation," he added.

Continued on pg 7

THE MORNING NEWS Carnival photo contest is drawing to a close...



Your last chance to win great prizes such as the grand prize of a 3 day/2 night stay at Boardwalk Small Hotel just across from the Marriott Resort, tickets for 2 on Mi Dushi Sailboat or an Ultimate Play Package from Cool Casino. (See details on pg 12)



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Police posts Rules and Regulations for 2012 Easter Week Camping

Easter Week is Camping time along our beaches for many Arubans! And, it is almost that time of year again! In connection with the annual camping activities, Police Chief A.E. Richardson has issued a strong appeal to all citizens to comply with the conditions under which the camping permits are being issued.

The official camping period begins Monday, April 1st at 12:00 noon. This means that as of this date we can begin placing our camping gear, tents and trailers along the beaches. All objects placed before this time and date will be removed by the police. The last day to camp will be Sunday, April 15. At the end of the camping period, all objects placed along the beaches must be removed. Any items remaining will be removed at the expense of the camper by the police.

The Aruban authorities urge everyone to make a concentrated effort to keep our beaches clean during and especially after the camping period. Deposit all debris in trash cans or in plastic bags.

The Camping Request Forms are available at the Police Administration Office as

of February 21st up to March 9th week days between 8:00 to 11:30am or 1:00 to 4:30pm.

The Camping Permit comes with the following conditions:

1. Under no circumstance is it permissible to prepare B.B.Q. on the beach. At other locations B.B.Q pits may be placed, provided these are Gas B.B.Q pits.

2. Tents and trailers in use must be in good condition. These must be placed at least 10 meters away from the edge of the sea and not less than 5 meters from the public road. Violation of these distances will result in their removal by the authorities.

3. Under no circumstance is it permissible to reserve a camping location.

4. Tents, trailers or any other object may not be placed at locations other than at the locations designated for such by the government.

5. Each tent or trailer must be adequately equipped with first aid equipment.

6. It is strictly prohibited to display obscene or indecent posters or other visual immoral material on tents, trailers or on other objects.

Continue on pg 3

Radio Stations included in the "Together We Can Save" Campaign



A few days ago, the dynamic team of the Hunto Nos Ta Spaar (Together We Can Save) paid a courtesy visit to various Radio Stations around the island handing out

bags with various items to be used to reduce water and electric consumption.

Since the formation of this Team and the start of this innovative project, the interest from the community has been great, and they are very positive that this campaign is going to make a real difference. They have noted that people are making a concerted effort to adapt and change their appliances where possible and the way they use water and electricity in order to save money.

Wanda Broeksema and Felipe Ras of ELMAR visited Radio Station Magic FM during their "Bon Dia Aruba" program with Erin Croes and Tio George. They also visited

Canal 90 during that station's "Bisami 90" program with Leoncita Arends. This was followed with a visit to the "Enfoke 90" news program with Speed Andrade and Toko Winklaar. They then tracked over to the popular Ivo Yanez program on the same Canal 90FM station.

They later visited Panorama Galactica with Freda Maduro, then Latina's program "La Mania" with Oscar Fernandez. They also took time out to visit "Boca na Palabra" with Elvis Weert on Top FM.

At every station visited they presented a gift bag full of essential items to help reduce water and electricity consumption. This is the same bag of items that are given to households when they visit our homes.

The lovely green colored bag contains: a white 14W "energy saver" light bulb which is equivalent to 60W, a 19W bulb which is the equivalent of 75W, a showerhead, a "Toilet Tummy," and a few small articles designed to help reduce the consumption of water and electricity. Each article is very simple and easy to install. Once installed, you will begin to see the difference almost immediately in your consumption.

Everyone, obviously, wants to save...and we now have the opportunity through this excellent campaign to get the necessary advice and information.

Anyone who has not yet had a visit from the Hunto Nos Ta Spaar Team should call Tel. 525-4200 and make your appointment to get the information and guidance to help reduce your consumption and to save on your utility bills.



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Police posts Rules and Regulations for 2012 Easter Week Camping

Continued from pg 2

7. The camping activity must be in conformity with the conditions under which the permits were issued.

8. It is strictly forbidden to drive motor vehicles, bicycles, horses or carts on the beaches and particularly at areas designated for pedestrian passage and the general public.

9. It is strictly forbidden to ignite fires on our beaches.

10. It is strictly forbidden to sell food, soft drinks, mixed drinks, or any other type of article on the beach without an official permit for this purpose.

11. During the week music may be played only

from the trailer and only until 10:00pm. On the weekend music may be played up to 12:00 midnight and in such a manner as to not disturb other campers. The use of sound systems or amplifiers is permitted as long as other campers are not molested by this.

12. It is strictly forbidden to trim or cut trees in the area without a permit for same.

13. It is prohibited to drive boats or anker these in the swimming zone. Boats may not be tied to the boys in the water.

14. It is prohibited to use wooden pallets or cartons on the beach. If these are used they will be removed by the police.

15. It is strictly prohibited to use the beach or coconut trees as a toilet, a place to go to the bathroom.

16. Horses and dogs are not permitted on our beaches.

17. Use of the beach huts for camping purposes is strictly forbidden, all huts must remain free to be used by others who come to enjoy the day.

18. Under no circumstance is it allowed to dirty the beaches. The beaches must be kept clean at all times. Broken bottles, glass splinters may not be left behind. Trash may not be thrown into the ocean.

19. The permit issued to one person may not be passed

along to someone else.

20. The permit issued must be kept intact in the tent or trailer and displayed in such a manner that it is visible to the controlling officer of the law.

21. The person for whom the permit was issued must bear in mind that the permit issued gives him/her the exclusive right to camp at the designated area during the specific camping period. Before the camping period the permit is not valid. This means that it is not permissible to reserve, mark off, put up fences, or ropes, etc. at any location before the date stipulated.

22. The holder of a per-

mit remains responsible for whatever damage caused to others through the use of tents, trailers or other objects.

23. Any order issued by the police with respect to the public order or the security of persons, or property, must be followed unequivocally.

24. It is strictly forbidden to use the Huts for camping purposes, these must remain free to use by others during the day.

25. Anyone acting contrary to the stipulated conditions in the permit will be considered to not have a permit, hence his/her permit will be revoked.

The last day to request a permit for camping is March 9th, 2012!



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Funari Group enjoys a playful morning at Seaport Casino



A few days ago Seaport Casino received a very pleasant visit from a dear group of people on the island. Some 45 of Funari's members came to the casino to enjoy a few hours of play and each others company. They were received with open arms

as many of them are already loyal clients and even members of Seaport Casino.

Upon their arrival at Seaport Casino they were treated to a snack, \$5 Free Play coupons and at noon again, a delicious soup. During the visit

all Funari members had a good time playing the different slot machines and chatting with the staff. When it was time to leave, their leader, Mrs. Belkis Engelhart assured that this won't be their last visit to Seaport Casino.



Fun, Sun and Family



Don and Laura, and their extended family, daughter Keri with her husband Dave, their children, Jared, Isabel and Ryan, son John with his wife Lindsey and their children, Caroline and Arron, and newlywed son Patrick and his wife Kelly, all from Massachusetts, celebrated family together here at their "home away from home," as they have been doing for the past few years. They enjoyed every visit, and especially the friendliness of the people. Photos of Don and Laura, and also the whole family together, in front of Aruba's new sign facing the Renaissance Ocean Suites where they stayed, says it all. See you again next year!



Photos by Diane Keijzer.

Good news for Aruba's sports and athletes



The government of Aruba together with the Aruba Olympic Committee are working diligently to advance and elevate the level of athletics on our island.

The Caribbean Regional Anti-Doping Organization (RADO) with great honor and pleasure recently informed Aruba that Aruba was unanimously approved to become part of their organization.

The meeting of the Board of RADO recently met in St. Kitts & Nevis where this decision was made.

Aruban athlete Patrick Werleman has been appointed to be member because of his vast experience in the athletic field on Aruba. This is believed to be a tremendous accomplishment for Aruban sports. Doping is a very broad subject and deserves much attention so as to avoid whatever unpleasant situation for our athletes and our island.

The decision to include Aruba in RADO will definitely afford our athletes the opportunity to advance professionally in the area of sports.

Aruba is very proud of this announcement.

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Subway starts its traditional 'Seafood Sensation' especially for Lent



Lent is here and Subway has already launched its traditional 'Seafood Sensation' menu, offering customers the best choice in seafood sandwiches

during this season when many select to give up meat.

The Lent menu also features their famously delicious 'Clam Chowder Soup,' which

can be delightfully paired with lobster, tuna or crab sandwiches, as well as wraps and salads; wise choices with ample variety for those with an eye towards healthy eating. These have endless appeal to lovers of seafood and fresh produce.

Subway is always conscious of its customers who prefer to eat seafood during Lent, especially on Fridays, so helps them sustain this reflective time in a tasty and healthy fashion. Subway also bakes its bread fresh daily

and each order is made fresh before your eyes.

When entertaining, don't forget that Subway makes it easy with attractive party platters, an excellent choice for a fresh, healthy and delicious surprise for family and friends, perfect during any festive event or beach party.

Take note: the Renaissance Marketplace shop is again open after undergoing complete renovations, so patrons can enjoy a clean, relaxing, contemporary environment; Subway has already been get-

ting very positive response from loyal clients to the change and re-opens today. Opening hours are from 7:30 am until 11:00 pm, daily.

"We at Subway express our sincere gratitude to all our clients for their patience and understanding during the renovations, as well as the support we received thru the years. It motivates us to continue expanding, promoting and changing our menu to offer healthy alternatives in "fast food," commented a Subway spokesperson.

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

International News

Obama wants 'every tool available' to stop Syria killing

WASHINGTON (AFP) - President Barack Obama said Friday he wants "every tool available" to stop the "slaughter" of civilians in Syria, as he backed an international meeting on the crisis.

Obama, speaking at the White House, said he was "encouraged by the international unity" displayed at a meeting on Syria in Tunisia, with more than 60 foreign ministers gathering to increase pressure on President Bashar al-Assad, whose regime has launched a deadly crackdown against opponents.

"We're going to continue to keep the pressure up and look for every tool available to prevent the slaughter of innocents in Syria," Obama told reporters.

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, attending the first meeting of the "Friends of Syria" in Tunisia on Friday, warned that Assad would pay a "heavy cost" for ignoring the will of the international community after almost a year of brutal crackdowns on protesters.

"The Assad regime has ignored every warning, squandered every opportunity, and broken every agreement," she said. "Faced with determined protesters demanding their rights and their dignity, the regime is creating an appalling humanitarian disaster."

Clinton also announced \$10 million in aid for humanitarian efforts in Syria.

The Assad regime's "escalating violence in Syria is an affront to the international community, a threat to regional security, and a grave violation of universal human rights," said Clinton.

More than 7,600 people have been killed since the uprising against Assad's rule

erupted last March, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group.

At least 39 more people were killed Friday as the ministers met in Tunisia, two days before Syrians vote on a new constitution that could end 50 years of Baath Party rule though keep wide powers with the president.

Tunisia called for an Arab peacekeeping force to be sent in to help end the killings, and for Assad to be granted immunity to persuade him to stand down.

The group called for the

Assad regime to "immediately cease all violence" to allow humanitarian access and "committed to take steps to apply and enforce restrictions and sanctions on the regime."

In the first sign that growing pressure might be having an effect, Red Cross and Red Crescent ambulances entered the besieged Homs district of Baba Amr and evacuated seven Syrians wounded in bombardment by regime forces.

But the ambulances had not yet evacuated two wounded Western journalists and the bodies of two others.

Briton extradited to US over Iran charges

LONDON (AFP) - A retired British businessman accused of conspiring to sell missile parts to Iran was extradited to the United States on Friday, but branded his treatment a "disgrace".

Speaking to reporters as he arrived at London Heathrow airport, where he was taken into custody by US marshals, Christopher Tappin protested his innocence and said he should have been tried in Britain.

US prosecutors accuse the 65-year-old of attempting to unlawfully export batteries for surface-to-air missiles, which were allegedly due to be shipped from the US to Tehran via The Netherlands.

Tappin fought a lengthy battle through the British courts against his transfer to the United States, where he could face 35 years in jail, but lost a final appeal to the European Court of Human Rights last week.

Accompanied to Heathrow by his tearful wife Elaine, Tappin said he was "not very confident at all" about the outcome of his case.

"If I wanted anything, it was to be tried in the UK, not in America, because the Americans have never had to produce one piece of evidence," he said.

The British media have highlighted Tappin's case as an example of what many view as the unequal extradition arrangements with the United States.

Critics say US authorities have to provide far less information about an alleged crime to secure the extradition of a Briton than British authorities must provide to extradite an American.

Prime Minister David Cameron said this week that ministers would carry out a review of the arrangements, but said a recent report had found no need for fundamental reform.

Spanish duke arrives in Majorca for corruption hearing



PALMA DE MAJORCA, February 24, 2012 (AFP) - Spanish King Juan Carlos's son-in-law Inaki Urdangarin arrived on the island of Majorca Friday on the eve of his court appearance in a corruption case.

The case implicating Urdangarin, 44, the Duke of Palma who is married to the king's youngest daughter Cristina, is the first major scandal to touch Juan Carlos's family and a major embarrassment for the royals.

Urdangarin and Cristina arrived by car late Friday evening at the Marivent Palace, a royal seaside summer home in Palma, capital of the Balearic Islands, an AFP photographer there said.

The couple was to stay the night there before Urdangarin appears in court in Palma first

thing on Saturday for a preliminary hearing in the investigation, in which he is a suspect along with some of his former associates.

The duke, a former Olympic handball player, is suspected of siphoning off money paid by regional governments to the Noos Institute, a charitable group he chaired between 2004 and 2006 for staging sporting events and conferences.

He denies any wrongdoing, but the king has sought to distance himself from the affair and in December the royal family suspended Urdangarin from official engagements.

On Thursday Urdangarin's own family released a statement defending his innocence and attacking what they called a "campaign of harassment" against him.

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International News

Death toll rises to 24 from Afghan anti-US protests



Afghan demonstrators shout anti-US slogans during a protest in Kabul against Koran desecration.

KABUL, Afghanistan (AFP) - Anti-US protesters tried to storm a US consulate and march on NATO headquarters in Kabul on Friday as violent demonstrations over the burning of Korans pushed into a fourth day, killing 24 people.

Afghan officials said nine people died Friday, seven of them in the relatively peaceful western province of Herat, where the assault was made on the consulate in the capital.

The Koran burning has inflamed anti-Western sentiment already smoldering over abuses by US-led foreign troops, such as the release last month of a video showing US Marines urinating on the corpses of dead Afghans.

President Hamid Karzai's government and the US-led NATO mission in Afghanistan had appealed for calm and restraint, fearful that Taliban insurgents are trying to exploit the anti-American backlash.

The protests flared after Friday prayers, where mullahs condemned "Infidels" for the desecration of Islam's holy book.

"Those who have committed this crime should be identified and should be publicly executed," said mullah Mohammad Ayaz Niazi at Kabul's Wazir Akbar Khan mosque.

"You have not just betrayed a nation, but you have played with the faith and sentiments of 1.7 billion Muslims worldwide, and you have trampled their holy book," he said, while urging that any protests should be peaceful.

The circumstances surrounding the Koran incident are still subject to investigation. But US officials told AFP the military removed the books from a prison at Bagram because inmates were suspected of using them to pass messages.

US judge refuses to release Jackson doctor

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - The judge who jailed Michael Jackson's doctor Conrad Murray for four years refused a request Friday for him to be released pending an appeal against his conviction.

Judge Michael Pastor agreed with prosecutors that Murray was a flight risk if re-

Dutch prince may never regain consciousness: doctors

Continued from pg 1

Kollar was giving the first official details on the prince's health since his accident last Friday.

Until now, the Dutch Royal House had limited itself to saying he was "stable, but not out of danger," with the hospital refusing to comment.

Queen Beatrix, 74, as well as the prince's wife Mabel Wisse Smit and his two brothers, Crown Prince Willem-Alexander and younger brother Prince Constantijn, were spotted arriving at Innsbruck University Hospital on Friday to visit him.

The Dutch royal family was vacationing in Lech, where it regularly spends its skiing holiday, when the accident happened, and members of the family have made daily visits to the prince's bedside.

Although the second son of Queen Beatrix, Johan Friso is no longer in line for

the throne after he married in 2004 without the government's permission.

Austrian newspapers also reported Friday that Queen Beatrix had extended her stay in Austria for another week due to her son's accident.

A Dutch government statement said Prime Minister Mark Rutte had spoken to the queen and Johan Friso's wife by phone and had assured them the country "shares the royal family's pain at this time of worry and sorrow".

He also called on people to "respect the privacy of the prince and his family" and allow them to digest the latest news from the doctors "with serenity and in private."

The statement also quoted Queen Beatrix saying the royal family was "touched by the many reactions and expressions of support over the last week".

An experienced skier,

Chavez heads to Cuba for treatment in renewed cancer scare: state TV

CARACAS (AFP) - Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez flew to Havana Friday for treatment of what he says is likely a malignant tumor in the same part of his body where Cuban doctors last year removed a cancerous tumor, state media reported.

The 57 year-old Chavez, who underwent surgery in Cuba and four rounds of chemotherapy after cancer was detected in his pelvic region and is seeking re-election in October, vowed to defeat "this new difficulty" just ahead of boarding the flight to Havana.

leased on bail following his conviction in November over the King of Pop's June 2009 death.

Murray asked in January to be released on bail, vowing to comply with "any and all conditions," including "electronic monitoring, periodic check-in with any agency or court or

such other conditions that the court deems reasonable."

The 59-year-old doctor also pledged to live with his partner Nicole Alvarez -- who appeared in his defense during the six-week trial -- and their three-year-old son. He said he had been told his appeal will take well over a year.

Prince Johan Friso had been out with an Austrian friend on February 17 when he was buried under an avalanche in the resort in western Vorarlberg province.

The friend, whom local media have identified as the director of the hotel in Lech where the Dutch royals are staying, was equipped with an avalanche airbag and escaped unscathed.

At the time, the avalanche alert level at the time was at four, the second highest.

Vorarlberg prosecutors have now launched a routine investigation into the accident and what or who might have caused it.



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Health & Living

States file suit over Obama's birth control plan



WASHINGTON (AFP) - Seven US states have filed a lawsuit challenging a requirement in President Barack Obama's 2010 health care law that religious organizations provide insurance covering birth control.

The lawsuit filed Thursday, which also lists three Catholic organizations as plaintiffs, threatens to deepen a vicious election-year row over contraception despite a compromise announced by the president earlier this month.

The attorneys general of Nebraska, Florida, Michigan, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Texas allege that the requirement that religious organizations purchase employee health insurance to cover contraception violates the constitutional guarantee of freedom of religion.

"This regulation forces millions of Americans to choose between following religious convictions and complying with federal law," Nebraska Attorney General Jon Bruning said in a statement.

"We will not stand idly by while our constitutionally guaranteed liberties are discarded by an administration that has sworn to uphold them," he said.

Conservatives and groups affiliated with the Catholic Church -- which opposes contraception -- say the law forces them to pay for services they view as wrong, while supporters say birth control is vital to women's health.

In a concession earlier this month, Obama said the government would not require religious organizations to offer free contraception on employee health plans, but placed the onus on insurance companies to cover such services.

The Nebraska attorney general's office said, however, that "the proposed change did nothing to address the fundamental First Amendment violation and was never officially made."

The fight erupted when the administration decided not to exempt religious employers from a requirement under its

landmark health reform law that work-based insurance plans offer women coverage for contraception.

Officials argued that a woman who works, for example, as a nurse at a Catholic hospital might not share her employer's religious opposition to contraception and should have the same rights as female workers elsewhere.

Catholic leaders were outraged -- though houses of worship were exempt -- and Republicans used the row to whip up a social issues storm, firing up their conservative political base in an election year.

The lawsuit filed in a US district court in Nebraska on Thursday also lists as plaintiffs Pius X Catholic High School, Catholic Social Services, The Catholic Mutual Relief Society of America and two private citizens.

Eating citrus lowers women's stroke risk: study

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Women who regularly eat citrus fruits such as oranges and grapefruit may have a lower risk of blood-clot related stroke, according to a US study published on Thursday.

Researchers looked at 14 years of data from a US nurses survey that included 69,622 women who reported what they ate, including details on fruit and vegetable consumption, every four years.

The aim was to study the effects of flavonoids -- a class of compounds present in fruits, vegetables, dark chocolate and red wine -- on health.

While total flavonoid consumption across all six main types found in the typical US diet did not show a benefit in preventing stroke, those who ate lots of oranges and grapefruit and their derived juices showed a 19 percent lower stroke risk than their counterparts in the study.

"Studies have shown higher fruit, vegetable and specifi-

cally vitamin C intake is associated with reduced stroke risk," said Aedin Cassidy, lead author of the study in the *Stroke: Journal of the American Heart Association*.

"Flavonoids are thought to provide some of that protection through several mechanisms, including improved blood vessel function and an anti-inflammatory effect," added Cassidy, a professor of nutrition at Norwich Medical School in the University of East Anglia.

The researchers called for more studies to better understand the apparent link, and urged women to consume oranges and grapefruit rather than their juices to avoid high sugar content from drink additives.

Previous research has suggested that citrus-derived flavonoids may help prevent weight gain and metabolic syndrome which can lead to Type 2 diabetes and higher risk of heart disease.



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Sci-Tech

Mild drought killed off Mayan civilization: study



(AFP) - The collapse of the Mayan civilization was likely due to a relatively mild drought, much like the drier conditions expected in the coming years due to climate change, scientists said Thursday.

Scholars have long believed that a major drought caused severe dry conditions that killed off the ancient culture known for its mastery of language, math and astron-

omy.

But researchers from the Yucatan Center for Scientific Research in Mexico and the University of Southampton in Britain said their analysis shows the drought only caused reductions of 25 to 40 percent less annual rain.

The smaller amounts of rain meant that open water sources in pools and lakes evaporated faster than could be replaced by more precipita-

tion, said the study in the journal Science.

The study is the first of its kind to attempt to assess exactly how much rainfall decreased between 800 and 950 AD when Mayan civilization went into decline, and bases its modeling data on records of past rainfall changes from stalagmites and shallow lakes.

The analysis showed that modest dry spells could have sparked major water shortages in an area with no rivers, and no source of water other than rain.

"Summer was the main season for cultivation and replenishment of Mayan freshwater storage systems and there are no rivers in the Yucatan lowlands," added Rohling.

International experts have predicted that similar dry spells in the Yucatan region are on the way due to climate change.

While modern societies are expected to be better equipped to handle drought, risks remain, said lead author Martin Medina-Elizalde of the Yucatan Center for Scientific Research in Mexico.

"What seems like a minor reduction in water availability may lead to important, long-lasting problems. This problem is not unique to the Yucatan Peninsula, but applies to all regions in similar settings where evaporation is high."



KIEV, Ukraine : A 5 year old steppe turtle with two heads and six paws is held up for a photograph at the Science History Museum in Kiev on February 23, 2012. The Ukrainian born reptile, on display at the museum, has a heart-shaped shell, two hearts but only one intestine, exposition organisers said.

AFP PHOTO

Chinese firm takes Apple legal battle to US

(AFP) - A Chinese computer firm involved in a legal battle with Apple over the iPad trademark said Friday it is suing the technology giant in California for "unfair business and fraud".

Proview Technology, based in China's southern city of Shenzhen, filed the lawsuit a week ago on February 17, Proview Technology (Shenzhen) chief executive Yang Rongshan told AFP.

"The suit accuses Apple of unfair business and fraud," Yang said, adding the company was following a different legal strategy in the United States than in China, where it has sued for trademark violation.

He declined to give further details about the suit, filed in a state court near Apple's Silicon Valley headquarters.

The Wall Street Journal said the suit accused the company Apple of "fraud and/or malice" in using an innocuously-named subsidiary to buy the iPad trademark from Proview in December of 2009.

The case opens up another front for Proview, which suffered a legal setback on Thursday when a Shanghai court threw out a separate case

against Apple and ruled the US company could continue iPad sales in the city.

The Shanghai case marked a victory for Apple in a protracted and ongoing legal battle with the debt-laden Proview over rights to the iPad name.

Proview's Taiwanese affiliate registered "iPad" as a trademark in several countries including China as early as 2000 -- years before Apple began selling its product.

The US titan subsequently bought the rights for global trademark, but Proview claims the Taiwanese affiliate had no right to sell the Chinese rights.

Apple last year took the firm to a Chinese court, claiming trademark infringement, but the court ruled the US company lacked "supporting facts and evidence" for its claim -- even though a Hong Kong court had previously sided with Apple.

Apple is now appealing that case, but Proview, which makes computer monitors, has itself filed trademark lawsuits against Apple in China.

At the same time, Proview has indicated an interest in a multi-billion-dollar cash settlement from Apple.



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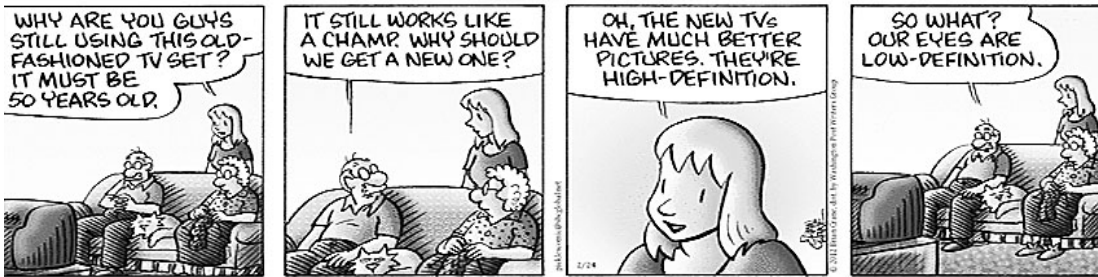
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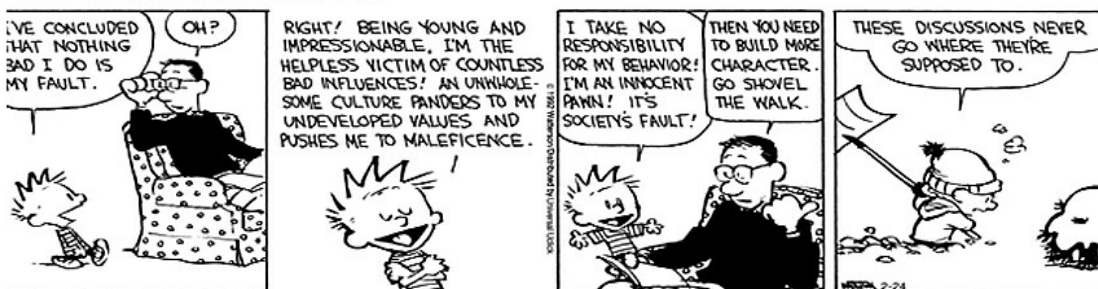
PICKLES



MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBS



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A RED-HEADED WRITER

ACROSS

1. Absorb info
6. D.C. gps.
10. Heart's ____ (pansy)
14. Edition
15. Lumbago
16. Toll rd.
17. Sinclair Lewis novel
19. Noun-forming suffix
20. Ralph Kramden's vehicle
21. Stuffed spots
22. Edison's middle name
23. Eleanor's successor
24. 153, to Livy
26. Pursues
28. Du Pont product
31. Street language
32. Architects' output

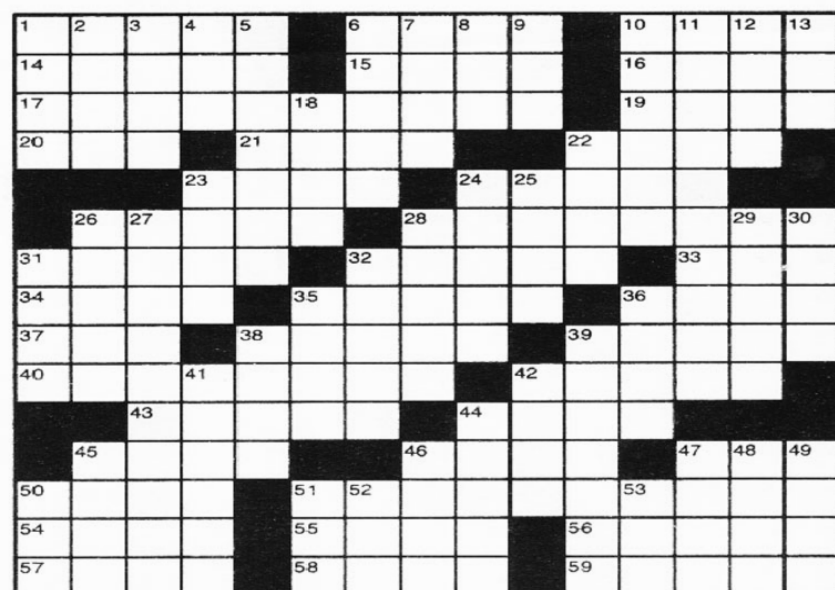
33. Isthmus in Indochina
34. Title assumed by Ratzinger in 2005
35. Crude
36. Injection destination
37. Indian cobra's cousin
38. Job around the house
39. Exhausted
40. 2004 Quaid-Thornton bomb
42. Spittoon stuff
43. German refusals
44. Singer Jacques
45. Cry of dismay
46. Eris's brother
47. Irish sea god
50. Oz apple thrower
51. Sinclair Lewis work

54. Bollywood costume, often
55. Cheat
56. Sister of Terpsichore
57. Asked for mercy
58. Concluded
59. March of ____

DOWN

1. Branch
2. Son of Rebekah
3. Thrift shop tag
4. "Logan's ____"
5. Savings
6. Whittles
7. Part of a "dead man's hand"
8. Role in "Evita"
9. Davis Cup unit
10. And others:

11. Sinclair Lewis heroine
12. Animal-adoption agcy.
13. Lengthen
18. Prepare the salad
22. Targets
23. Thorn in one's side
24. "The Paper ____"
25. Lorgnette part
26. Splash haphazardly
27. "It Can't ____" (1935 Lewis novel)
28. Cheroot's cousin
29. April sign
30. Gentry asset
31. Short gaiter
32. Spring events
35. Oland role
36. Ampule
38. Madison Avenue award
39. Having locks
41. Virgil's opus
42. Concoct
44. Tapped out
45. Doctoral exam
46. Elvis's middle name
47. Neeson or O'Flaherty
48. Diminutive ending
49. Greek letters
50. Small amt.
51. Suffix for stew or cow
52. "Pooh" character
53. Fancy scanning test: abbr.



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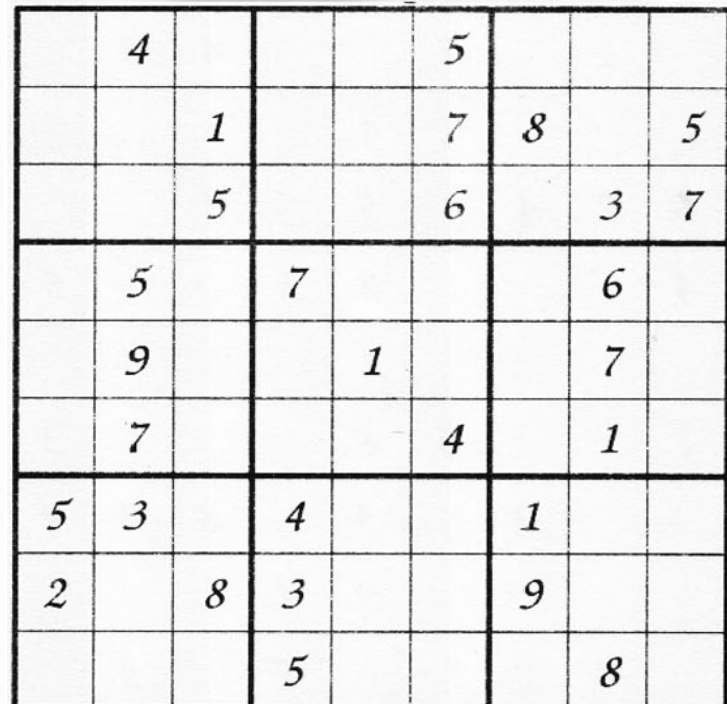
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 7 |
| 5 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 9 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 3 |
| 6 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 8 | 3 |
| 7 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 2 |
| 8 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 1 |
| 1 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 6 |
| 5 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 3 |
| 1 | 6 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 3 |

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

Finance

Aruba Money Supply Decreases Summary of the Monthly Bulletin of December 2011

ORANJESTAD -- The Centrale Bank van Aruba (CBA) concludes in its Monthly Bulletin of December 2011 that the money supply edged down by Afl. 83.9 million to Afl. 3,158.7 million, resulting from an Afl. 99.4 million decrease in net domestic assets to Afl. 1,872.5 million at the end of December 2011. This decrease was partially offset by an Afl. 15.6 million rise in the foreign component of the money supply. The fall in net domestic assets was because the Afl. 75.3 million in net liabilities of the public sector to the banking sector at the end of November 2011 turned into an Afl. 36.6 million net claims of the public sector on the banking sector at the end of December 2011. Commercial loans and housing mortgages increased by, respectively, Afl. 4 million (0.4 percent) and Afl. 1.2 million (0.1 percent).

The consumer price index

(CPI) for December 2011 registered a 6.1 percent rise, compared to the same month of 2010. The main components that contributed to this increase were transport, recreation and culture, and communication. The index for all items less food and energy (which partly affect the housing and transport components), the so-called core CPI, went up by 1.7 percent compared to December 2010. The 12-month average inflation rate reached 4.4 percent in December 2011.

Tourism fared well in December 2011, as growths were registered in stay-over arrivals and cruise visitors of, respectively, 3,793 (4.9 percent) to 81,455 visitors and 20,493 (24.8 percent) to 103,268 visitors, compared to December 2010. Overall, stay-over visitors grew by 5.7 percent in 2011, when compared to 2010. The Latin American market outshined its peers in growth,

primarily due to an upturn of 1,977 (+13.1 percent) more Venezuelan visitors who travelled to Aruba during December 2011, compared to the corresponding period in 2010. Flights from Venezuela reportedly expanded due to the intensification of ads and promotions for December 2011. Minor changes were observed in the other tourism market segments.

Tax revenue for the month of December 2011 totaled Afl. 81.9 million, a decline of Afl. 3 million (-3.5 percent), compared to the same month of the previous year. Revenue reductions were registered in taxes on commodities (-Afl. 4.6 million) and on services (-Afl. 3.7 million). These drops were partially offset by higher income from profit tax (+Afl. 2.5 million) and taxes on property (+Afl. 1.2 million), while those from the turnover tax rose marginally by Afl. 0.7 million.

IMF sounds warning for global economy on rising oil

MEXICO CITY - The International Monetary Fund flagged higher oil prices as a rising threat to the global economy yesterday, urging policymakers to keep a close eye on western tensions with Iran, which is facing punitive measures against its crude supplies.

Looming U.S. sanctions on Iran's oil buyers, as well as an impending European Union oil embargo, have forced countries to cut back on purchases from the world's fifth-largest exporter of crude, pushing up the price of the commodity.

Policymakers from around the globe are converging on Mexico City for a meeting of finance ministers and central bankers from the Group of 20 economic powers, and several of them raised concerns over

the spiraling crude costs.

"A new risk on the horizon, or maybe not on the horizon, maybe right in front of us, is high oil prices," David Lipton, First Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, said in a presentation at the G20 gathering.

"The situation in Iran is a risk that we have to be thinking about. Our assessment is that the global economy is not really out of the danger zone," Lipton added, noting, however, that it was too early to revise down the Fund's growth forecasts.

Lipton was speaking just after U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner said Washington was weighing the circumstances that could warrant tapping the U.S. strategic oil

reserve to counter the supply disruptions from Iran.

The fear of tightening supplies, exacerbated by a threat from Tehran to close the Strait of Hormuz - the main Gulf oil shipping lane - have lifted prices to new highs.

Western powers are increasingly at loggerheads with Iran over its efforts to generate nuclear power. Iran insists it wants to harness atomic energy for peaceful ends, but the West suspects it is trying to acquire nuclear weapons.

A day after hitting a record high in euro terms, Brent crude jumped above \$124 a barrel, raising worries that a run of sharp price gains could stymie the euro zone's growth prospects, making it harder for governments to meet budget targets and pull the currency bloc out of its debt crisis.

Mexico, which is hosting the G20 meeting, has been pushing for the euro zone to take further steps to solve the debt crisis and for policymakers to make progress on increasing the IMF's firepower, lest it be needed to help in Europe. But some countries have said there can be no talk of more IMF resources without a stronger European firewall, which is to be discussed among European Union leaders next week.

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G20 presidency urges action from Europe

MEXICO CITY (AFP) - The head of the central bank of Mexico, which currently presides the G20, called on European governments yesterday to take urgent action to restore confidence.

"It is crucial for European authorities to urgently implement policy actions in order to restore confidence," said Agustin Carstens ahead of a weekend meeting of the 20 (G20) advanced and developing countries here.

"This will generate a virtuous cycle where firms will be more willing to invest, households will increase their spending and investors will renew their interest in European sovereign debt."

Carstens, a former finance

minister, praised Spain's efforts to take "strong, painful but necessary actions" and said the international community also had to back Europe.

"No one wants the crisis dragging on indefinitely," he added.

G20 finance ministers and central bankers meeting this weekend in Mexico City were expected to discuss boosting funds for the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and Europe's emergency funds, following the latest rescue deal for Greece.

Amid increasing pressure on Europe to beef up its financial firewall, the G20 meeting comes days before a Brussels summit next week where the issue is expected to top the agenda.

Brazil to boost sugarcane output for ethanol

SAO PAULO (AFP) - Brazil said yesterday it planned to boost sugarcane production over the next four years for use as ethanol fuel in light vehicles.

The federal government said a strategic plan to increase sugarcane output during the 2012-2015 period was being developed to firm up ethanol's role as the leading fuel for Brazil's fleet of light vehicles.

Since 1976 the government

made it mandatory to blend anhydrous ethanol, containing a maximum one percent of water, with gasoline, fluctuating between a 10 percent and 22 percent ratio, for use in light vehicles.

The new plan would raise the proportion of anhydrous ethanol to gasoline to 25 percent and the share of light vehicles using hydrated ethanol -- with seven percent water -- to between 50 and 55 percent.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

BOAT FREAK SLAW
ANNO CELLO HABA
HENRYCABBAGECOD
TIARA PAULA EYE
IKE MALI
CARDIGAN SACRED
ODE MORAL BALI
COOLASACUCUMBER
OLIO BRAIN AMA
AFLOAT EUTECTIC
MAHA EAR
ERR LEPPER SEINE
THEPUMPKINEATER
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| Britain | GBP | 2.75 | 2.80 | 2.86 |
| Switzerland | CHF | 198.15 | 198.87 | 199.67 |
| Netherlands | EUR | 236.71 | 238.87 | 241.28 |
| Sweden | SEK | 26.09 | 26.81 | 27.61 |
| Denmark | DKK | 31.16 | 31.88 | 32.68 |
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THE MORNING NEWS Carnival photo contest is drawing to a close...



Lizzy by Felipe Cardona



From Janet McIntyr

Have you shared your Carnival 2012 experience with readers of THE MORNING NEWS? We have extended the deadline to this coming **Sunday, February 26**, and then will accept no more entries. Winners will be announced on the last day of the month, and as this is a leap year, that will Wednesday February 29!

Entrants can win as a grand prize a **3day/2night stay at Boardwalk Small Hotel** just across from the Marriott Resort, **tickets for 2 on Mi Dushi Sailboat** or an **Ultimate Play Package from Cool Casino**.

Here is a sampling of entries: do you think you can do better? Let us know and share your shots, which we will put in the paper for all to enjoy!

Visit our website: themorningnewsaruba.com for



Carnival Queen by Sarita
full contest rules and requirements, and subscribe to receive a link to THE MORNING NEWS online, delivered to your e-mail inbox daily, at absolutely no cost; subscription is required to be eligible to win.

It also earns subscribers a raffle ticket to win tickets for 2 to Bonaire with Tiara Air Aruba, and each photo entry earns an additional raffle ticket.

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And the nominees are...

HOLLYWOOD (AFP) - Here are the nominees in the main categories for this year's Oscars, to be handed out at the climax of Hollywood's annual awards season on Sunday night.

Also included is a list of the most nominated films.

- **Best picture:** "War Horse," "The Artist," "Money Ball," "The Descendants," "The Tree of Life," "Midnight in Paris," "The Help," "Hugo," "Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close."

- **Best director:** Michel Hazanavicius for "The Artist," Alexander Payne for "The Descendants," Terrence Malick for "The Tree of Life," Woody Allen for "Midnight in Paris," Martin Scorsese for "Hugo."

- **Best leading actor:**

Demian Bichir in "A Better Life," George Clooney in "The Descendants," Jean Dujardin in "The Artist," Gary Oldman in "Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy," Brad Pitt in "Moneyball"

- **Best leading actress:** Glenn Close in "Albert Nobbs," Viola Davis in "The Help," Rooney Mara in "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo," Meryl Streep in "The Iron Lady," Michelle Williams in "My Week with Marilyn."

- **Best supporting actor:** Kenneth Branagh in "My Week with Marilyn," Jonah Hill in "Moneyball," Nick Nolte in "Warrior," Christopher Plummer in "Beginners," Max von Sydow in "Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close."

- **Best supporting actress:** Berenice Bejo in "The Artist," Jessica Chastain in "The Help," Melissa McCarthy in "Bridesmaids," Janet McTeer in "Albert Nobbs," Octavia Spencer in "The Help."

- **Best foreign language film:** "Bullhead" (Belgium), "Footnote" (Israel), "In Darkness" (Poland), "Monsieur Lazhar" (Canada), "A Separation" (Iran).

- **Best animated feature:** "A Cat in Paris," "Chico & Rita," "Kung Fu Panda 2," "Puss in Boots," "Rango."

- **Best original score:** "The



Adventures of Tintin" - John Williams, "The Artist" - Ludovic Bource, "Hugo" - Howard Shore, "Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy" - Albert Iglesias, "War Horse" - John Williams.

- **Best original screenplay:** "The Artist" - Michel Hazanavicius, "Bridesmaids" - Annie Mumolo and Kristen Wiig, "Margin Call" - JC Chandor, "Midnight in Paris" - Woody Allen, "A Separation" - Asghar Farhadi.

Most nominated films,

and distribution company:

"Hugo" - 11, Paramount.

"The Artist" - 10, The Weinstein Company.

"Moneyball" - 6, Sony Pictures Releasing.

"War Horse" - 6, Touchstone.

"The Descendants" - 5, Fox Searchlight.

"The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo" - 5, Sony Pictures Releasing.

"The Help" - 4, Touchstone.

"Midnight in Paris" - 4, Sony Pictures Classics.

"Albert Nobbs" - 3, Roadside Attractions.

"Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 2" - 3, Warner Bros.

"Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy" - 3, Focus Features.

"Transformers: Dark of the Moon" - 3, Paramount.

"The Tree of Life" - 3, Fox Searchlight.

"Bridesmaids" - 2, Universal.

"Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close" - 2, Warner Bros.

"The Iron Lady" - 2, The Weinstein Company.

"My Week with Marilyn" - 2, The Weinstein Company.

"A Separation" - 2, Sony Pictures Classics.



**Is moving to
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**We kindly ask our
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new location**

Parents Guide to Skin Protection



It's important to protect your children's skin from the damaging effects of the sun. No matter what they're doing or what time of year it is, if they are outdoors, they need to be protected.

Aruba is one of the places in the world where the sun is the strongest. Located only 12.5 degrees north of the equator, the sun shines with maximum strength and penetrates the atmosphere with a maximum amount of UV rays. What most people don't know on water and sand, which means that even in the shade you need protection.

Protecting the skin from the sun during childhood and adolescence is important in reducing cancer risks later in life. By building safe sun habits into your family's daily routine, you will make your children understand and get used to being protected against the sun and they will become more

can't see through when held up to light.

- Cover up with Hats. Choose hats that shade your child's face, neck and ears.

- Apply Sunscreen every day on skin that is not protected by clothing or a hat. Choose a sunscreen with a high Sun Protection Factor (SPF) such as Aruba Aloe's Waterproof SPF 30 sunscreen for maximum protection. For babies and children under 2 years old, make sure to use a special sunscreen that gives extra protection for the sensitive skin such as "Waterproof Babies SPF 30" from Aruba Aloe. Remember to reapply after swimming, sweating or toweling dry if you use a sunscreen that is not waterproof.

- Use sunscreen even on



hazy or overcast days.

- Keep an extra bottle of sunscreen in the car.

- Pack a bottle of sunscreen in your child's bag.

- Use Sunglasses that block UV rays and protect the eyes and the surrounding tender skin.

- Play in the Shade. The sun's rays are generally strongest from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. If your children are outdoors, make sure their skin is protected.

- Teach your children the shadow rule. When outside, if your shadow is shorter than you are, it means that the sun is high in the sky and the UV rays are most intense.

- Protect children younger than 6 months of age with clothing and keep them in the shade.

For more advice on how to best protect your and your children's skin against the sun, please call Aruba Aloe: 588-3222 or visit the website www.ArubaAloe.com

Aruba Aloe products are available at most hotels, supermarkets, pharmacies and the Aruba Aloe Stores.



aware of the harmful effects it can have to their skin. Parents should take the lead by giving the good example; children will respond better when they see their parents protecting their skin as well.

Important recommendations:

- Wear protective clothing when out in the sun. Choose shirts and slacks made of tightly woven fabrics that you

Cool Casino where those in the know go to play!



The great perks of gaming at Cool Casino in the Palm Beach has created a dedicated clientele; ask them what they like about the cozy casino, and they don't know where to start! The free slot tournaments every Sunday? Major pay-offs in their weekly Blackjack tournaments every Tuesday and Friday? Ladies' night every Wednesday with entertainment from great local bands? Or perhaps just the terrific benefits of being "One Cool Member" which earns players bonus points towards additional activities, free dinners, day passes at the Riu Resort, credit for play, or best of all: hard, cool cash! The casino opens daily at 10:00 AM and on Saturdays and Sundays, all are greeted with an early

morning "Kaffie Klatch" and triple points when using their membership cards.



Cool Casino is a great place to learn to understand such table games as Craps and Roulette, as they offer free instructions and minimums for beginners with which anyone can have fun and feel very comfortable. High-stakes tables and a major weekly blackjack tournament will

keep veteran high-rollers happy, as well as periodic special events that attract an international crowd; stop by and check their schedule.

Add to all this free drinks while testing the slots or trying your hand at the tables, and the opportunity to enjoy exclusive pay-per-view major sporting events at one of their dozens of plasma screens, and you can understand why loyal patrons find Cool Casino THE fun place to play. Slot machines are open from 10:00 AM until 4:00 AM daily, and gaming tables open at 5:00 PM; ask for their schedule of special events and bonuses, as there are so many choose from, but every day offers something to get the adrenaline flowing!



SPORTS

NBA: Heat, Thunder storm into All-Star break

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Knicks breakout star Jeremy Lin has grabbed the headlines lately, but it's the Miami Heat and Oklahoma City Thunder topping the standings as the hectic NBA season reaches its All-Star break.

Just two months after the lockout-shortened season tipped off on Christmas Day, the annual mid-season showcase will give the NBA another chance to charm fans turned off by the labor dispute that shuttered the league.

The three days of exhibition festivities -- starting on Friday with the Rising Stars Game for rookies and second-year players -- are also a chance for ailing, aching and just plain tired players to catch their breath.

Lakers center Andrew Bynum could barely muster any enthusiasm for his first All-Star appearance on Sunday after Los Angeles were



flattened by the Thunder on Thursday night.

The Lakers and their cross-town rival Clippers dominate the Western Conference starting lineups in Sunday's All-Star Game, each with two starters.

Along with Bynum, Lakers superstar guard Kobe Bryant was voted in by fans, who also picked high-flying Clippers forward Blake Griffin and guard Chris Paul.

The only non-Los Angeles

starter is Thunder forward Kevin Durant.

Miami forward LeBron James and guard Dwyane Wade was to be joined on the Eastern Conference team by Orlando's Dwight Howard, Knicks forward Carmelo Anthony and Chicago guard Derrick Rose, although Rose, the reigning NBA Most Valuable Player, has been battling a sore back and other injuries this season.

The reigning NBA champion Dallas Mavericks feature only among the reserves in the West, not surprising after the early season struggles of Finals MVP Dirk Nowitzki and the Mavs' modest 21-13 record at the break.

Meanwhile the team the Mavericks beat in the finals -- Miami -- are cruising, with coach Erik Spoelstra saying the shortened season may have done them a favor.

Football: Ghana coach accuses players of 'witchcraft'

ACCRA (AFP) - Ghana coach Goran Stevanovic claims some of his players turned on each other using witchcraft at the Africa Cup of Nations, according to a report published by the BBC on Friday.

Stevanovic's astonishing accusation of deep divisions in the Black Stars' ranks emerged from a leaked review of the team's performance in Gabon where Ghana were knocked out by eventual winners Zambia in the semi-finals.

"We all need to help in changing some players' mentality about using 'black power' to destroy themselves, and also make sure we instill discipline and respect for each other," the coach said, according to the BBC.

In a report delivered to the Ghana Football Association's

(GFA) executive committee, Stevanovic added: "After losing to Zambia, there arose so many accusations amongst the players.

"I have learnt great lessons from African football and also about Ghanaian players' behaviour on and off the field."

Sarfo Gyami, part of the Ghana side at the 1992 Nations Cup, said: "It has always happened, but players have used it to protect themselves and normally in search of luck.


"I have never heard of a situation when players have used it against their own colleagues. That is a very bad situation."

Despite outward signs of unity both Stevanovic and GFA president Kwesi Nyantakyi suggest the reality at the 2012 Nations Cup was very different.

"During the competition we observed that some players played to achieve personal fame, prominence and excellence to the detriment of the team," Nyantakyi told a press conference this week.

"We also had complaints from some senior players, accusing some of the junior ones of disrespect."

Stevanovic's accusation indicate he may have trouble holding on to his post, the GFA are in the process of reviewing his contract, but he will still be in charge when Ghana play Chile in a friendly in the United States next week.



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Football: Title bid '13 Champions League finals' - Mancini

MANCHESTER (AFP) - Manchester City manager Roberto Mancini has warned his side against complacency as they embark on a title run in that he has compared to 13 consecutive Champions League finals.

City are in the driving seat in the title race, leading Manchester United by two points as the Premier League action resumes this weekend.

But while City should have little difficulty in picking up another three points against relegation threatened Blackburn on Saturday, Mancini is determined that his squad

leaves nothing to chance.

"It is impossible to be complacent," he said Friday. "Every game is like a Champions League final and for this reason we need good concentration."

Mancini reminded his players that Rovers have already taken three points off of Manchester United at Old Trafford this season and are fighting for survival.

"Blackburn won away against Manchester United and we know they are a good team, they are strong on the counter-attack," he said.

"They have been playing

very well in the last two or three weeks. They are playing to get away from the bottom."

Meanwhile, Mancini believes City's title hopes have been given a lift by the return from African Nations Cup duty of Ivorian midfielder Yaya Toure.

"Yaya is a high-quality player, he used to play for Barcelona and he is used to playing to win every game," he said.


"I think his mentality is very strong and that can help all the team. But we have other important players and I think it is a good mix."

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Golf: US duo in three-way tie for lead in Singapore

SINGAPORE (AFP) - American duo Angela Stanford and Katie Fitcher were locked in a three-way tie Friday with South Korea's Jenny Shin after the second round of the HSBC Women's Champions tournament in Singapore.

Overnight leader Stanford, who had a two-shot cushion after the first 18 holes, had a two-under 70 for a total of eight-under 136 while Fitcher and Shin each posted 67 in the second round.

World number one and pre-tournament favourite Yani Tseng had a disappointing day and lost further ground on the leaders.

The Texan Stanford expects the last two rounds to be even

tougher and believes staying patient will be important if she is to go all the way on Sunday.

Fitcher, who was a promising swimmer in her junior days before taking up golf, said making par at the first hole calmed her nerves for the rest of the round.

Japan's Ai Miyazato, the 2010 champion, was three shots behind the co-leaders after posting a 70 for a total of five-under 139 at the halfway stage of the tournament and tied at fourth spot.

She bogeyed the fifth and seventeenth holes but was otherwise pleased with her second-round performance at the \$1.4-million event being staged at the Tanah Merah

Country Club's par-72 Garden Course.

Tseng had a frustrating outing and is one-under after two rounds for a total of 143 but the Taiwanese superstar refused to blame her sore elbow for her performance.

Tseng was the pre-tournament favorite heading into Singapore after successfully defending her title at the Honda LPGA Thailand on Sunday and was bidding to win for the first time here.

There is no halfway-cut for the event which means there is still an opportunity for those lower down the field to work their way into contention for the title.

Braun reiterates innocence after appeal

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Ryan Braun, the first Major League Baseball player to successfully appeal a suspected doping violation, Friday insisted that the drug in question "never entered my body".

"I've tried to respect this process," Braun said at a press conference at training camp in Arizona one day after the result of his appeal was announced.

"I've tried to handle the entire situation with honor, with integrity, with class, dignity and professionalism, because that's who I am.

"If I had done this intention-

ally or unintentionally, I would've been the first to step up and say, 'I did it.' I know in my heart this substance never entered my body," he said.

Braun was named Most Valuable Player of the National League in November for his role in helping the Milwaukee Brewers clinch their first division title in almost 30 years.

His outstanding season came after he inked a five-year contract extension through 2020 worth \$105 million last April.

An ESPN report in December that he was facing a possible 50-game ban for testing positive for a performance-enhancing drug during the playoffs rocked baseball.

While MLB policy calls for dope testing and appeals to remain confidential until a ban is announced, Braun did not deny the report.

He said on Friday, however, that much of what was reported in the media was incorrect, and that the positive test was not the result of a personal health issue or sexually transmitted disease.

A three-man panel ruled 2-1 in favor of Braun, with arbitrator Syam Das casting the deciding vote.

Major League Baseball issued a statement on Thursday saying it "vehemently disagreed" with the decision.

Details of the case were not released, but US media reported Braun's appeal was based on technical flaws in the handling of his sample, which cast doubt on the chain of custody.



Golf: Tiger eliminated at WGC Match Play



MARANA (AFP) - Former world no. 1 Tiger Woods was eliminated by Nick Watney 1 up on Thursday in a second-round match at the \$8.5 million World Golf Championships Match Play Championship.

Watney booked a third-round match on Friday against world no. 3 Lee Westwood of England. Westwood, the Sam Snead bracket's top seed, defeated Sweden's Robert Karlsson 3 and 2 in another second-round match at Dove Mountain.

"I'm definitely in a little bit of shock," Watney said after Woods missed a five-footer

that would have extended the match.

"The old adage is to expect your opponent to make it," Watney said. "And when it's Tiger Woods, you really expect him to make it."

Woods, a 14-time major winner and three-time WGC Match Play champion, has not won a tour-level title since 2009 as he has struggled with injuries and the aftermath of his infamous sex scandal.

Watney sank a 15-foot birdie putt on the opening hole to move 1-up on Woods, but Woods answered with a birdie at the par-5 second and parred to win the par-4 fourth and put

himself 1-up on US compatriot Watney.

Woods dropped the par-4 seventh with a bogey and the match was squared at the turn, then surrendered the par-4 10th to Watney and lost the par-3 12th to a birdie from Watney, who seized a 2-up edge and kept it through the 15th hole.

Even then, Watney said, he was expecting Woods to respond.

"I just felt like Tiger Woods is not going to lay down," Watney said. "Tiger Woods is not going to give you this match, so you've got to do something to take it."

Watney took a bogey at the par-3 16th, trimming his lead to 1 up with two to play, and each parred the par-4 17th, sending the drama to the final hole.

Woods missed three birdie putts within 10 feet over the final six holes.

"I didn't miss a single shot coming in, which is good. And that was fun, to hit the ball that well," said Woods, who struggled as he implemented swing changes last year. "Unfortunately, I just didn't make a putt when I needed it."

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Tennis: Goerges sends Wozniacki crashing out of Dubai Open



Julia Goerges of Germany reacts after beating Denmark's Caroline Wozniacki

DUBAI (AFP) - Caroline Wozniacki's hopes of regaining the world number one ranking took another blow when her defence of the Dubai Open title ended in the semi-finals on Friday.

Wozniacki lost the top spot after an Australian Open quarter-final defeat last month.

She then fell at the first hurdle in Doha, and on Friday failed to capitalise on a 4-2 second set lead against unseeded German Julia Goerges and was beaten 7-6 (7/3), 7-5.

Despite this there was also plenty of evidence why the world number 19 from Germany had beaten her better known Danish opponent in both their last two meetings.

Goerges, who will face Poland's Agnieszka Radwanska in Saturday's final, hit the ball with great power, especially on the forehand, and was prepared to risk errors to apply pressure.

Had Wozniacki been more confident she might have held on to her serve in the seventh game of the second set and perhaps extended the match to a decider.

Instead she chose to dispute the HawkEye replay decision which consigned her to 30-40 -- a futile if emotionally understandable response which both

indicated and heightened her frustration.

Mostly Wozniacki used a slower pace and changes of pace and direction, as well her impressive mobility to contain the Goerges bombardment, but she was not quite consistent enough to make the policy work.

"Today was just a day where you try, you try, you try, and it just doesn't work. You know, you have some of these days sometimes," said Wozniacki, who will also defend title-holder's points at her next tournament, in Indian Wells the week after next.

Goerges was thrilled with her win.

"When you see the draw you never expect to get to the final," she said of something she had only achieved three times previously.

"It's amazing to be in the final and to beat Caro again. I just tried to stay aggressive and play my kind of game."

Goerges has enterprisingly taken advantage of a top half minus the injured world number one Victoria Azarenka, and which quickly lost the sixth-seeded semi-injured Marion Bartoli, beaten by Peng Shuai of China in the first round.

Goerges will play the informal Radwanska, who has

only lost to Azarenka this year and will climb one place to world number five if she takes the title.

The rising 22-year-old from Krakow overcame former world number one Jelena Jankovic 6-2, 2-6, 6-0 in a topsy-turvy match in which Radwanska started and finished the more patient and controlled player.

Jankovic tried hard to im-

pose her new more attacking emphasis upon an opponent who defends, contains and counter-attacks very well, but the Serb could only make it work in the middle of the match.

Radwanska remained calm through that period of pressure although she admitted to finishing tired after a contest of one hour and 43 minutes in which she did plenty of running.

She also admitted to having had arguments with her father Robert, who last year alleged that she needed "a psychiatrist, a psychologist, something like that," and with whom she has parted as a coach.

"On the court we always had a good relationship. He's a great coach and he really taught me everything. But off court we had arguments," Radwanska said.

Tennis: Jankovic plans to return to the top

DUBAI (AFP) - Former world number one Jelena Jankovic, who achieved her best win for 12 months before exiting in the Dubai Open semi-finals, has a new team to help her beat a wave of different rivals and a plan to overcome herself too.

The intelligent, loquacious and charismatic Serb, who overcame US Open champion Samantha Stosur on Thursday before Friday's three-set loss to Polish fifth seed Agnieszka Radwanska, has always enjoyed working things out for herself.

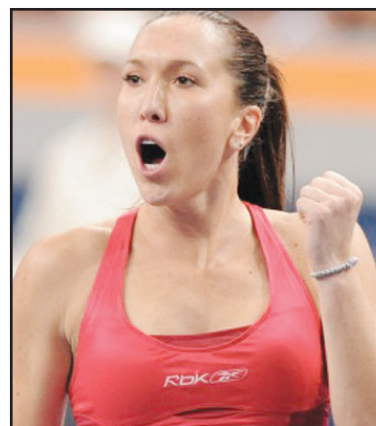
However, she is setting her independent instincts aside in a bid to climb back up from her current world ranking of 14, despite her exit to Radwanska.

"At one point I really wanted to carry on without a coach," Jankovic said, when quizzed about her recent appointment of Henner Nehles, a former player at the University of Nevada Las Vegas.

At the same time Jankovic admits that a coach can see things from the side of the court which the player cannot. And it is necessary to work with a coach in training.

"I was recommended him (Nehler), so I just tried to see," she said. "And on top it's a little bit different because he's a young guy, and usually you have the older coaches, you know, with a lot of experience on the tour."

Jankovic also has Korey



Goodwin as her new fitness trainer -- another vital appointment, as one of the causes of her slide down the rankings has been repeated health and injury problems.

These have involved improving the weight and variety of her serve, making the first solid strike in a rally more often, and moving opponents around more rather than relying so much on her athletic ability and court coverage.

Jankovic also wants to develop the stamina and equanimity to last a seven-day two-week Grand Slam.

The changes are intended to help her respond to the emergence of fine new players such as Victoria Azarenka, Petra Kvitova, Caroline Wozniacki and Agnieszka Radwanska, all younger than the 26-year-old Jankovic.

The new team helped Jankovic win three matches at last month's Australian Open, before she lost to the then world number one, Caroline Wozniacki.

The aim is to build on this, to regain a place in the top ten, and then to try to challenge for the major titles which have eluded her.

Jankovic looked a much more attack-minded player than before as she beat Stosur to reach her first semi-final of the year before losing 6-2, 2-6, 6-0 Friday to Radwanska.

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